



*Water has no substitute...Conserve it!*

Media Contact: Jonell S.T. Kaohelauii  
Information & Education Specialist  
Phone: 808- 245-5461  
Mobile: 808-755-5432  
Email: [jkaohelauii@kauaiwater.org](mailto:jkaohelauii@kauaiwater.org)

## **News Release**

For Immediate Release: April 17, 2020

### **Flushing of plumbing fixtures and hot water systems for schools, hotel properties and large commercial customers recommended prior to reopening**

LIHUE – The Department of Water (DOW) is recommending that all schools, hotel properties and large commercial facilities continue maintenance on their plumbing systems by flushing water throughout their property at least once a week. The flushing process will help to prevent stagnation, clear out existing sediment and help to ensure chlorine residuals (which checks microbial growth) are maintained within their facilities. Schools, hotel properties, and large commercial properties are advised to conduct the recommended routine flushing process in preparation and anticipation of reopening to the public.

Additionally, current maintenance should also include the proper care of cooling and air conditioning systems and frequently maintaining and flushing the property's hot water systems to avoid unwanted microbial growth during extended periods of non-use. Customers are also advised to check the backflow preventer on their property to confirm that it is functioning properly.

During the temporary closures related to COVID-19, many of these types of properties have significantly reduced the water demand within their systems. A decrease in water demand; which includes the discontinued use and maintenance of water fixtures on their property, can cause stagnation, in addition to existing sediment in pipes that can be stirred up in the water upon returning to normal water use.

DOW has already begun conducting flushing protocols and closely monitoring chlorine residual levels on its water systems to ensure water quality continues to be safe and remains in compliance with our state and federal regulations for drinking water.

For more information please call the Department of Water at 245-5400 or to report a water service issue, call 245-5444.

To view the latest County of Kaua'i updates related to COVID-19, visit [www.kauai.gov/COVID-19](http://www.kauai.gov/COVID-19).

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